

WESTFORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

5/19/04

Present: Bob Oliphant, Roberta McGuire, Jane Hinckley, Stacey Perron, Ken Tebbetts

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM.

Open Forum-

Ken's term on the CPC expires in June, and he expressed a willingness to serve another term. Bob nominated Ken to a second term on the CPC, with Jane seconding. 4 approved, with Ken abstaining.

The June 16th meeting of the Historical Commission will be held on the library steps. They have applied for \$24,410 in CPA funds, for a restoration of the library facade. The contact person is Ellen Rainville. We'll have a site visit and will have to decide if we support the project. Jane will copy their proposal, and will put in our mailboxes later this week. The library will make their presentation to the CPC on June 22nd.

On June 15th, we will have a site visit at the Town Farm. Ken will let us know what time. The school committee wants to retain custody of the building, re-using it in some way. We should see if Sanford Johnson is available to come with us. Jane will call Ingrid Nilsson to confirm the tour date and time.

Jane contacted Frank Hamblett, who made the signs for the conservation trails. He will make a natural looking sign for us to mark the site of the Town Pound. Jane will work with Mr. Hamblett, and the Highway Department.

Maintenance from Town Hall wanted to remove rotten window boxes. Jane contacted the Garden Club and did further research to see if there was any historical value to them, and there was not. They were then removed.

Don Reed from the Shirley Historical Commission called Jane looking for information about our demolition delay bylaw. Jane will let him know that information is available on our web site.

Jane went to Randolph (for personal research) and noted a sign- “Old South Wagon Road” with dates and listings of various historical sites in Randolph. She would like to see a similar sign in Westford, and will put together a design. She will bring it to our July meeting.

There was an article in the Eagle re: establishing a public hearing when considering designating a scenic road. Jane distributed articles about Chelmsford and Groton’s scenic roads.

Jane would like the Historic Districts included on the Roudenbush map of Westford. She will follow up with Ellen Harde.

Demolition Delay-

74 Stony Brook Road- the house was built in 1868. The owners want to demolish the house to put in a road leading to three house lots. Ken has suggested to the owners that they move the house to one of the lots. Although the house is not in a historic district, or on a scenic road, Ken feel that it contributes to the historic character of the neighborhood., so therefore would be a high priority for preservation.

Bob made the motion to approve the demolition, with Jane seconding. Three members approved with two abstaining, as they did not go on the site visit.

The site visit was on April 24th, after the allotted thirty days, but the owner was willing to review the project with us. Ken will write a letter asking for permission to photograph the house, and will ask again if the owners would consider moving the house.

Roberta will check with the building department to see if the first line of the demolition permit is accurate.

Treasurer’s Report-

We got a plumbing bill for repair of burst pipes in the cottage for \$760. Sally has submitted monthly bills to Town Hall for a total of \$730.

Paul Lemieau has looked at the museum roof, and is not able to do the job. He feels that there was an ice jam which caused the leak. The name of Frank Bearse

has been gives to us as a possibility, and Bob will contact him.

Ken has been unable to contact Jerry Boucher about the cottage porch. He will touch base with Don Kenney, and will follow up with Jerry Boucher in writing.

Ken feels we will also need to replace the cottage roof, and asked Stacey to obtain three estimates. She will contact DS Roofing, and Superior Roofing, and one more company. The estimates will be separated out- the main house, the porch and both.

Secretary's Report-

Minutes from Feb 18th were reviewed- Bob made a motion to approve, with Jane seconding. Four approved, with Roberta abstaining.

The minutes from March 6th were reviewed, and one correction was noted. Bob Harmon should be changed to Bill Harmon. Jane made the motion to accept with Roberta seconding. All approved.

The minutes of April 21st were reviewed, with one addition noted. Under new business it should be noted that Bob will contact Wayne D'Agastino regarding the museum roof. Bob made the motion to accept with Jane seconding. Four approved with Roberta abstaining.

Preservation Plan-

The group discussed developing a point system when considering each property in our inventory section. This would help us to prioritize the property. Considerations are- age, if it is on a scenic road, in an historic district, and many other factors.

It was suggested that each board member organize the pieces of the plan that we have so far, in a binder with dividers. Roberta will e-mail us the table of contents.

Next month we will discuss the "Recommendations" section. Roberta will e-mail it to us.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey M. Perron, secretary